blacknewsdigest

NEWS
from the
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information,
Publications and Reports
Washington, D.C.
20210

WEEK OF APRIL 23, 1984

IN THIS ISSUE:

LABOR DEPARTMENT OBSERVES FEDERAL
WOMEN'S WEEK; SIX BLACKS HONORED

LABOR SECRETARY DONOVAN ANNOUNCES VETERANS'
OUTREACH CENTER FUNDS FOR PENNSYLVANIA

LABOR SECRETARY DONOVAN JOINS 3 STATES
IN $2.2 MILLION TRAINING EFFORT IN MIDLAND, PA.

LABOR DEPARTMENT SUES ILLINOIS TRUSTEES
OVER IMPRUDENT INVESTMENTS

PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES--MARCH 1984

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Public Information Directors and the states in their regions:

Region I.....John M. Chavez
Room 1700
JFK Federal Bldg.
Boston, MA 02203
617-223-6767

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Region II.....Edward I. Weintraub
Room 3580
1515 Broadway
New York, NY 10036
212-944-3435

New Jersey
New York
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands

Region III.....John P. Hord
Room 2460
3535 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-596-1139

Delaware
District of Columbia
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Virginia
West Virginia

Region IV.....Frances Ridgway
Room 317
1371 Peachtree St., N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30367
404-881-4495

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Kentucky

Region V.....John D. Mellott
Room 772
230 S. Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604
312-353-6976

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI.....Les Gaddie
Room 220
555 Griffin Sq. Bldg.
Griffin and Young Sts.
Dallas, TX 75202
214-767-4776

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Region VII.....Patrick A. Hand
Room 2509
Federal Office Bldg.
911 Walnut St.
Kansas City, MO 64106
816-374-5481

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Region VIII.....Ernest E. Sanchez
Room 1468
Federal Bldg.
1961 Stout St.
Denver, CO 80294
303-837-4235

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah

Region IX.....Joe B. Kirkbride
Room 11003
Federal Bldg.
450 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-556-3423

Arizona
California
Hawaii
Nevada

Region X.....Michael Shimizu
Room 3094
Federal Office Bldg.
909 First Ave.
Seattle, WA 98174
206-442-7620

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon
Washington

Week of April 23, 1984

LABOR DEPARTMENT OBSERVES FEDERAL
WOMEN'S WEEK; SIX BLACKS HONORED

WASHINGTON -- Under Secretary of Labor Ford B. Ford pledged commitment to affirmative action for women and said that much of the country's progress would continue "to stem from the contributions of women" in a wide range of occupations and industries, including government.

Ford, who addressed a program marking the opening of Federal Women's Week at the Labor Department, presented awards to six black women honored for personal career achievements or for efforts to improve the status of working women.

Blacks honored for personal career achievements included:

--Barbara J. Ramseur, a labor economist, and LaVerne C. Tinsley, a specialist in state workers' compensation, both from the Employment Standards Administration;

--Mary A. Flowers, a contract specialist, Employment and Training Administration;

--Velma J. Speight, supervisory auditor, Office of the Inspector General, and

--Veronica Thomas, supervisory program analyst, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

June M. Robinson, director, Office of State Liaison and Legislative Analysis, Employment Standards Administration received and "Impact Award" in recognition of her "commitment to and special concern" to promote the advancement of women within her agency and throughout the department.

The recipients were praised for their career progression and academic achievements as well as for their role in community services and in helping their co-workers and colleagues.

An "Appreciation Award" was presented to Drucilla Simms for her outstanding contributions to the Federal Women's Program during the past several years. Simms heads the department's ACT Program, a career development training effort for administrative, clerical and technical staff.

In his prepared remarks, Ford observed that women comprise 43 percent of the department's staff and noted that three women hold top Labor Department positions: Dr. Lenora Cole Alexander, director of the Women's Bureau; Dr. Janet Norwood, commissioner of labor statistics, and Sue Meisinger, recently appointed deputy under secretary of labor for employment standards.

He said that the fact they are women was secondary to the qualifications they brought to key programs and to their leadership activities that concern and affect women and all American workers.

-more-

In emphasizing the department's commitment to EEO, Ford pointed out that in a 1981 policy directive, Secretary of Labor Donovan directed his staff that "equal employment opportunity be given the same level of importance" as other missions and functions of the department, and that managers and supervisors had "a legal and moral obligation" to ensure that all their functions were accomplished without discrimination..."

In expressing confidence that the department would continue to meet all the challenges that lie ahead, Ford said that much of the agency's success would be measured by "how well we help raise the status of millions of other women who still face barriers to jobs -- women who have yet to gain access to the mainstream of our American economy."

Activities for Federal Women's Week were coordinated by Elaine Murrell, Federal Women's Program manager, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Programs.

# # #

Week of April 23, 1984

LABOR SECRETARY DONOVAN ANNOUNCES VETERANS' OUTREACH CENTER FUNDS FOR PENNSYLVANIA

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Secretary Raymond J. Donovan announced the awarding of nearly $900,000 in federal and state funds to continue into 1985 the highly successful Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center program in Pennsylvania.

"It is expected that employment and training-related services will be provided to more than 5,000 eligible veterans, including 3,600 Vietnam-era veterans and 1,200 service-connected disabled veterans," Donovan said. "We will continue to do everything possible to provide all necessary assistance to our nation's veterans."

Donovan said a total of $300,000 from Title IV-C of the federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and $590,000 from the Pennsylvania governor's office would be used to operate five veterans' outreach centers, located in Erie, Harrisburg, North Huntington, Pottstown and Wilkes-Barre.

"These one-stop centers," Donovan said, "have proved themselves extremely effective in helping unemployed veterans receive the services they need. I believe it is essential that we help those who have served their country move into productive employment in the civilian sector, and I applaud the dedication that Pennsylvania has shown in working together with the U. S. Department of Labor in this regard."

"As Secretary of Labor," Donovan said, "one of the achievements of which I am most proud is the implementation of JTPA. Under Title IV-C, funds are available specifically for the development of employment and training programs to meet the needs of service-connected disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam-era and those recently separated from the military service."

Donovan pointed out that through Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment William C. Plowden Jr., a number of veterans' projects have already been announced in conjunction with public and private non-profit groups.

These include a recent $187,000 federal grant to be used with City of Philadelphia funds to continue a successful Vietnam Veterans Multi-Service Center there.

In the five centers announced, veterans will be able to obtain advice, information and individualized counseling on job and training opportunities available through federal, state or local programs--all in one place.

In some, representatives from a number of government agencies, as well as community and social groups, will be located in the center.

To help veterans in rural areas, each center will maintain an outreach schedule, Donovan said, to permit program activities to be brought directly to veterans in outlying communities.

-more-

Following his announcement, Donovan urged employers to utilize the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act program, which provides employers up to $10,000 for training eligible veterans in certain jobs.

He said that information about the program is obtainable from regional and state offices of the Labor Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), headed by Assistant Secretary Plowden, which are listed in telephone books under "United States Government."

# # #

Week of April 23, 1984

LABOR SECRETARY DONOVAN JOINS 3 STATES
IN $2.2 MILLION TRAINING EFFORT IN MIDLAND, PA.

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan said he was providing $1.1 million to help as many as 2,300 jobless steelworkers from the closed Crucible Steel plant in Midland (Beaver County), Pa., find new occupations.

It will be part of a $2.2 million training package for Midland dislocated workers put together with the governors of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. The laid-off workers come from the three-state area.

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funds will go to the Midland Center for Career Development, a joint union-management project operating since September 1983, sponsored by the United Steel Workers of America, Local 1212, and Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation.

"I am impressed by the responsiveness of the three states in this demonstration of cooperation," Donovan said. "I am also extremely pleased at the way these states are using the Job Training Partnership Act as a significant tool in addressing a common problem."

The federal funds will be used primarily for retraining courses, both short- and long-range, aimed at providing marketable job skills. As many jobs as possible will be found for the trainees within the 75-mile commuting distance of Midland to save relocation costs.

One of the features of the project, which was started in September, will be the business training course and technical assistance provided to those who hope to start a small business.

The new funding is in addition to the $79,300 in JTPA discretionary funds already provided by the secretary to help 720 workers find new occupations.

The two Midland grants from the secretary, supplement the $4.3 million Donovan has alloted the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for dislocated worker programs since Oct. 1, 1983.

"The Reagan Administration is determined to place the resources that are available through JTPA in those areas where workers such as those laid off from Crucible Steel can be assisted directly in finding new and more permanent work.

"I am targeting the discretionary funds we have under JTPA's Title III where they will do the most good and in full cooperation with the governors," Donovan said.

The Midland project is under the direction of the Joint Company Union Community Training Committee of Beaver County. It will provide a broad job search program as well as training, using techniques developed in job search clubs.

# # #

Week of April 23, 1984

LABOR DEPARTMENT SUES ILLINOIS TRUSTEES
OVER IMPRUDENT INVESTMENTS

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor has sued nine trustees for allegedly investing over $1.7 million in assets of three Illinois employee benefit plans in low and non-interest bearing bank accounts.

Named as defendants in the suit were Richard Kelly, J.E. Koehne, J.D. Shawen, Jr., Oresta Jordan, Albert J. Davinroy, Walter Aerne, Oscar Wilkinson, Richard Beckman and Thomas Lee.

The suit alleges the trustees violated their fiduciary duties under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) by imprudently maintaining the assets of the Steamfitters Local 439 and Plumbers Local 360 pension and vacation plans in passbook savings accounts at Illini Federal Savings and Loan in exchange for administrative services provided to the plans.

In its suit, the department contends the value of the services furnished by Illini was worth considerably less than the amount necessary to make the arrangement prudent.

Also, the suit charges the trustees with imprudently maintaining the assets of the health and welfare plan in checking and passbook savings accounts at Southern Illinois Bank at rates less favorable than those available on alternative bank instruments.

The department's complaint asks the court to require the defendants to personally reimburse the plans, with interest, for any losses they might have incurred as a result of the trustees' fiduciary breaches.

The suit was filed April 4, 1984 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois at East St. Louis.

# # #

Week of April 23, 1984

PRODUCER PRICE INDEXES--MARCH 1984

WASHINGTON -- The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.5 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis from February to March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported. This was about the same as in each of the preceding 2 months but was considerably larger than in any of the 5 previous months. Prices received by producers of crude good jumped 2.0 percent, after falling 1.5 percent in February and rising 0.7 percent in January.

Among finished goods, consumer food prices were up 0.8 percent, about the same as in the month before but far less than the 2.7 percent surge recorded in January. The index for finished energy goods fell for the seventh time in the last 9 months. Price increases accelerated for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy, while the advance in the capital equipment index moderated. During the first quarter of 1984, the Finished Goods Price Index climbed at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.1 percent, up from a rate of 1.0 percent in the final quarter of 1983. Most of this acceleration was due to finished consumer food prices, which advanced at a 17.8 percent rate during the first quarter, after a 5.4 percent rate of increase in the previous 3 months. Prices for finished goods other than foods rose at a rate of 2.6 percent in the first quarter, after declining marginally in the previous quarter.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.4 percent to 291.7 (1967=100). From March 1983 to March 1984, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 2.9 percent. Over the year, prices for finished consumer foods climbed 6.1 percent, the finished energy goods index decreased 1.8 percent, the index for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy rose 2.8 percent, and capital equipment prices increased 2.5 percent. Prices received by producers of intermediate goods moved up 3.2 percent in the 12 months ended in March 1984, and crude material prices advanced 5.5 percent.

# # #

Week of April 23, 1984

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Producer Price Indexes measure average changes in prices received in primary markets of the United States by producers of commodities in all stages of processing. These data were previously presented as the Wholesale Price Index, according to a publication of the U.S. Department of Labor.

# # #

The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Labor Department is the only federal agency devoted exclusively to the concerns of women in the labor force, according to a publication of the U.S. Department of Labor.

# # #

The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Labor Department works with other federal and Labor Department agencies to insure that the needs and concerns of women workers are being addressed by policymakers and program planners, according to a publication of the U.S. Department of Labor.

# # #